

THE  
HONGKONG  
WEEKLY.

ILLUSTRATED

# The China Mail.

ESTABLISHED 1845

GRAND PRIZE PARIS 1900  
The Highest Possible Award  
**Joseph  
Gillott's  
PENS**  
Of Highest Quality, & Having Long  
Durability, are the  
CHEAPEST.  
The only Award Chicago, 1893.

No. 13,762.

號八十月五年七零百九千一英

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1907.

日七初月四年未丁

PRICE, \$3.00 Per Month

## Intimations.

### THORNE'S OLD VAT



This VAT was started by the late ROBERT THORNE of Greenock and has been sold as No. 4 since 1831.

### SCOTCH WHISKY.

PER DOZEN .....\$14.

SOLE AGENTS IN HONGKONG, CHINA AND MANILA.

A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.  
Hongkong, May 1, 1907. 783

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.  
NOTICE.

ON MONDAY, 20th Instant, All departments will be OPEN for Business from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. only.  
A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.  
Hongkong, May 17, 1907. 882

### BANK HOLIDAY.

THE EXCHANGE BANKS will be CLOSED for the Transaction of Public Business on MONDAY, the 20th May, 'WHIT MONDAY.'  
Hongkong, May 16, 1907. 869

### FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF HONGKONG.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the FIRE INSURANCE OFFICES will be CLOSED for the Transaction of Public Business on MONDAY, the 20th May, 'WHIT MONDAY.'  
By Order,  
A. R. LOWE,  
Secretary.  
Hongkong, May 16, 1907. 873

### BRITISH STEAMER 'NETHERTON.'

BY ORDER OF THE UNDERSIGNED, the undersigned are prepared to receive TENDERS for the Purchase of the above Steamer as the now lies at SINGAPORE in a Fire Damaged Condition.  
GILMAN & CO.,  
Eloys' Agents.  
Hongkong, May 7, 1907. 826

## 'MACKIE'S WHITE HORSE CELLAR'

THE BEST AND OLDEST WHISKY IN  
SCOTLAND.

CITY ANALYST'S LABORATORY,  
138, BATH STREET,  
GLASGOW, 21st JANUARY, 1907.

## MONTHLY REPORT ON 'MACKIE'S WHITE HORSE CELLAR' BLEND OF SCOTCH WHISKY.

I Herby certify that I have taken samples of every vatting of 'MACKIE'S WHITE HORSE CELLAR' BLEND OF SCOTCH WHISKY used in bottling during the month of December, and the results of my analyses indicate that it conforms to the standard for Pot Still Scotch Whisky set up in the London case. I am also of opinion that it is an old Whisky of excellent quality and flavour which has been well matured in wood.

JOHN CLARK, PH. D.F.C.S., F.I.C.,  
Public Analyst for the City of Glasgow,  
and the Counties of Lanark and Renfrew, &c.

'EVERY JUDGE OF WHISKY WILL CONFIRM THIS.'

Price \$13 PER DOZEN.

Free Samples supplied on application to the

SOLE AGENTS:

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

## Business Notices.

### W. S. BAILEY & CO. ENGINEERS & SHIPBUILDERS.

WORKS:

KOWLOON BAY.

OFFICES & STORES:

No. 20, CONNAUGHT ROAD

### HONGKONG, CANTON, MACAO AND WEST RIVER STEAMERS.

JOINT SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD., AND THE CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LTD.

#### Hongkong-Canton Line.

s.s. HONAM, 2,363 tons, Captain H. D. Jones.  
s.s. FOWAN, 2,338 tons, Captain W. A. Valentine.  
s.s. FATSHAN, 2,280 tons, Captain C. Lloyd.  
s.s. KINSHAN, 1,995 tons, Captain B. Branch.  
s.s. EUNGSHAN, 1,498 tons, Captain R. D. Thomas.

Departures from Hongkong to Canton daily at 8 a.m. (Sunday Excepted), 10 p.m. (Saturday Excepted).

Departures from Canton to Hongkong daily at 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Sunday excepted).  
The s.s. FOWAN will leave Hongkong every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 9 p.m. from Queen Street Wharf West, returning from Canton every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at 5.30 p.m.

These Steamers, carrying His Majesty's Mails, are the largest and fastest on the River. Special attention is drawn to their Superior Saloon and Cabin accommodation.

SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED.

#### Hongkong-Macao Line.

s.s. SUIAN, 1,651 tons, Captain E. H. Granger.

s.s. SULTAI, 1,651 tons, Captain G. F. Morrison.

Departures from Hongkong to Macao on week days at 7.30 a.m. from Douglas Wharf and at 2 p.m. from the Company's Wharf. On Sundays Special Cheap Excursions, leaving Hongkong at 9 a.m. from Douglas Wharf and from Macao at 5 p.m.

The Company also run a steamer from Macao on Sunday morning at 7.30 a.m. and from Hongkong at 1 p.m. from the Company's Wharf.

Departures from Macao to Hongkong on week days at 7.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

#### Canton-Macao Line.

s.s. LUNGSHAN, 219 tons, Captain T. Hamlin.

Departures from Macao to Canton on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 7.30 a.m. Departures from Canton to Macao on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at 7.30 a.m.

JOINT SERVICE OF THE H.K. & C. AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD., THE CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LTD., AND THE INDU-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LTD.

#### Canton-Wuchow Line.

s.s. SAINAM, 588 tons, Captain J. Wilcox.

s.s. NANNING, 569 tons, Captain A. McKinnon (at Dock).

One of the above Steamers leaves Canton for Wuchow every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at about 8 a.m. and the other leaves Wuchow for Canton on the same day at 8.30 a.m. Round trips take about five days. These vessels have Superior Cabin Accommodation and are lighted throughout by electricity.

Further particulars may be obtained at the Office of the—

HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD.

ROBERT MACKENZIE, (First Floor), opposite the Hongkong Hotel.

Or of BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

Agents, CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

## Business Notices.

### BELL'S ASBESTOS EASTERN AGENCY, LIMITED

(SOLE AGENTS FOR BELL'S ASBESTOS CO., LTD., LONDON).

SAVE FUEL BY COVERING YOUR BOILERS AND STRAMPINGS

WITH

BELL'S ASBESTOS NON-CONDUCTING COMPOSITION.

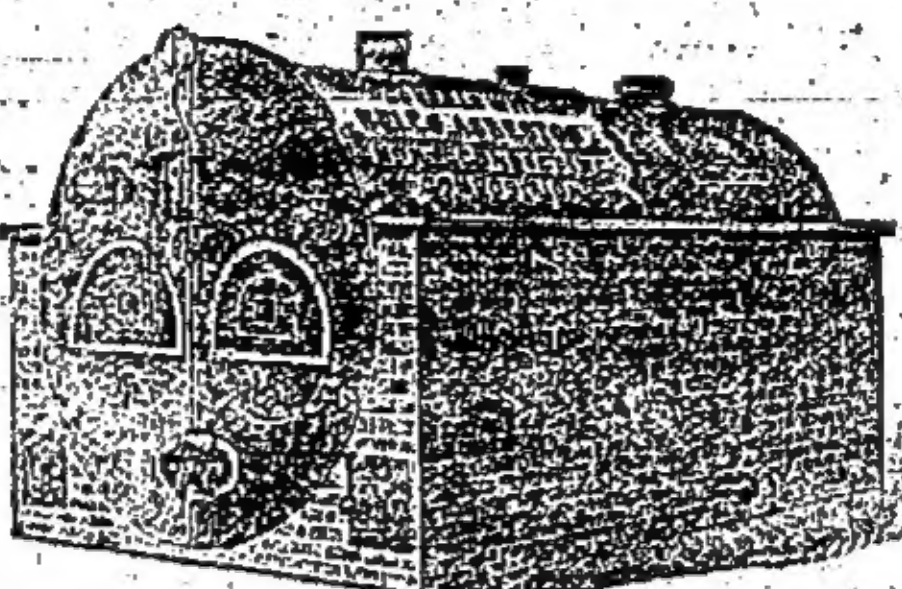
ESTIMATES GIVEN

FOR WORK FINISHED COMPLETE.

OR SUPPLIED IN

Bags of 1 cwt. each.

Office: 6, DES VOEUX ROAD



### LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT

NEW STOCK OF

### SUMMER COSTUMES

IN

MUSLIN, LINEN, VOILE, etc.

Latest Styles in

TRIMMED MILLINERY.

Lace, Muslin and Silk Blouses.

BELTS and SUNSHADES.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Hongkong, May 4, 1907. 2040

### THE HONGKONG HOTEL

UNRIVALLED FOR COMFORT AND CUISINE.  
THOROUGHLY UP TO DATE WITH EVERY MODERN LUXURY.  
MODERATE TERMS AND NO EXTRAS.  
H. HAYNES, Manager.

### OCCIDENTAL HOTEL

KOWLOON.

A QUIET, COMFO TABLE, COOL, and WELL-FURNISHED HOTEL for RESIDENTS and TOURISTS.

ELECTRIC LIGHT and FANS THROUGHOUT.

Bathroom attached in Eac Room. Cuisine under direct European Supervision.

Terms Very Moderate.

For Special Terms for Families and Monthly Boarders Apply to—

E. G. JORDAN, Manager.

### BALTIMORE HOTEL

HONGKONG.

MANAGED ON AMERICAN PLAN.

Being in the Business center of the town is the FAVORITE HOTEL with visitors from Manila.

Terms Moderate.

TABLE UNDER DIRECT EUROPEAN SUPERVISION.

Special Terms for Families and Parties.

Apply to

Hongkong, March 7, 1907. 425

### REMINGTON TYPEWRITERS

WITH ALL REQUISITES.

SIEMSEN & CO.,

SOLE AGENTS.

Hongkong, March 2, 1906

### MEE CHEUNG

ART PHOTOGRAPHER.

ICE HOUSE STREET AND HONGKONG HOTEL CORRIDORS.

EXCELLENT VIEWS OF

H.E. Sir MATTHEW NATHAN'S FAREWELL

(COPYRIGHT).

AMATEUR DEPARTMENT.

Hongkong, April 3, 1907. 1781

### PATELL & CO.,

SHAMEEN, CANTON.

GENERAL STOREKEEPERS,

WHOLESALE and RETAIL.

DEALERS IN

WINES and SPIRITS.

Export & Import Merchants,

AND

Commission Agents.

A. LING & Co.,

FURNITURE STORE

HAVE THIS DAY

REMOVED TO

No. 10, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

Next to

(Koon and Koon).

Hongkong, February 1, 1907. 223

### CARLTON HOUSE HOTELS,

No. 8 and 10, Ice House Road.

EXCELLENT FURNISHED ROOMS

COMFORT OF RESIDENTS AND THE CUISINE A SPECIALTY.

FOR TERMS APPLY TO

THE MANAGER.

JUST LANDED.

SPARKLING DEVONSHIRE

CHAMPAGNE CIDER.

FOR RAGINESS AND SALUBRITY REFERRED TO

CHAMPAGNE

Caldbeck, Macgregor & Co.,

Wine and Spirit Merchants,

15, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

















## BY TELEGRAPH.

## SOUTH AFRICA.

## Miners on Strike.

(Exclusive Service, supplied by Reuters, via London.)

**London, May 17.**  
Serious strike disturbances have taken place on the Rand, owing to the arrival of non-unionist miners from Pretoria.

The non-unionists were stoned, barricades were broken down, but only one shot was fired.

The Miners' Association has declared that a general strike is imminent.

## MOROCCO AND FRANCE.

## An Amicable Settlement.

(Exclusive Service, supplied by Reuters, via London.)

**London, May 17.**  
Sid Abdul Karim Ben Sliman, Moroccan Minister for Foreign Affairs, has written a letter to the French Minister, which the latter considers as indicating the French demands.

## THE STRIKE ON THE RAND.

**London, May 16.**  
Owing to the strike on the Rand the volunteers in Pretoria have been ordered to be in readiness to mobilise at an hour's notice.

## THE AUSTRIAN ELECTIONS.

**London, May 16.**  
The gains of the Socialists, and the defeats of the German and Czech Nationalists, are general throughout Austria. The Social Democrats have won 57 seats, and the anti-Socialist or Christian Socialists 50.

## AMERICAN INTER-STATE COMMERCE COMMISSION.

**London, May 16.**  
The American Inter-State Commerce Commission finds that the railway competition has suppressed (trade) over one third of the area of the United States. The Commission advocates the amendment of the agreements between the railways, and effective laws to prevent the inflation of securities.

## SAN FRANCISCO.

## Municipal Corruption.

**London, May 16.**  
A sensation has been caused in San Francisco by Boss Abraham Rueff (Abe Rueff) pleading guilty to a charge of extortion in connection with the Municipal corruption, which has so long permeated all branches of civil life.

The London Gazette has the following announcement:—Major Gen. T. Porroite, C.B., from Commandant Const Defences, Scotland, to Command the Troops in the Straits Settlements, vice Major Gen. I. R. Jones, C.V.O., C.B., who has resigned that appointment. Lieut. H. M. Holland, R.A., to be A.D.C. to Major Gen. T. Porroite, C.B., Commanding the Troops in the Straits Settlements.

## WEATHER REPORT.

The following notice is issued by Mr Figg of the Hongkong Observatory:—  
On the 18th at 12.05 p.m.—The barometer has fallen very rapidly over E. Japan owing to the depression, which is crossing E. Japan in its advance towards the Pacific. Pressure has increased considerably over W. Japan and the Philippines, and a moderate rise of the mercury has taken place on the China coast.  
Gradients are slight over S. China, and light to moderate variable winds may be expected in the Formosa Channel and the N. part of the Okinawa Strait.  
Hongkong rainfall for the 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.00 inches.  
Forecast for the 24 hours ending at noon to-morrow.  
**FORECAST DISTRICT.**  
1.—Hongkong and Neighbourhood: E. or variable winds, light to fair.  
2.—Formosa Channel: Variable winds, light or moderate.  
3.—South coast of China between Hongkong and Lanchow: Same as No. 1.  
4.—South coast of China between Hongkong and Hainan: Same as No. 2.

## RHEUMATISM MAKES LIFE MISERABLE.

A happy home is the most valuable possession that is within the reach of mankind, but you cannot enjoy its comforts if you are suffering from rheumatism. You throw aside business, cease when you enter your home and you can be relieved from these rheumatic pains only by applying Chamberlain's Pain Balm. One application will give you relief and its continued use for a short time will bring about a permanent cure. For sale by all chemists and druggists.

## THE CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

## Adjourned till Tuesday.

The May Court of Criminal Sessions was formally opened this morning and adjourned until 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday next—Monday being a public holiday.  
There is only one case to be tried, that of murder against Cheung Tai. It will be remembered that the murder took place at Pokfulam, owing to a dispute over accounts, and that after being at large for several days Cheung Tai was arrested not far from the scene of the murder.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## DUMPING OF THE CHINESE DEAD.

(To the Editor of the China Mail.)

Sir—At the Sanitary Board's meeting, held on 13th inst., the Hon. Mr. A. W. Brown moved in his second motion as follows: That a resolution in the number of dead bodies placed in the streets can be effected only by obtaining the assistance of the Chinese.

This is, with due deference to the Hon. gentleman, a sheer absurdity inasmuch as it implies the inability of the Government to cope with the evil practice, a scandal as well as a grave danger to the public health.

What alone is needed to attain the end desired is, prompt and severe measures for punishing the delinquents. Of course, simple imprisonment for a week or two in the Victoria Gaol does not answer the purpose. This palatial building with free medical attendance, sufficient food, etc., etc. is certainly not sufficiently terror-striking to deter the native of the poor classes from violating the laws of the colony, especially the new arrivals from the famine-stricken neighbouring colonies who would, probably, rather welcome their admittance thereon for the luxuries, unobtainable elsewhere, at the cost of the British Government of the Colony, or rather of the taxpayers.

If our worthy Magistrates would award whippings, stocks and deportation, 1, for one, would vouchsafe that not only a decrease but a complete cessation of dumping will ere long be the result, without the aid of the Chinese assistance.

J. M. G.

## A. S. WATSON AND CO., LIMITED.

The following is the Report of the general managers for the year ending 31st December, 1906, for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-second annual ordinary general meeting of the Company (since its registration) to be held at the offices of the Company in Alexander Buildings on Saturday, May 25th, at 12.30 o'clock in the afternoon:

**GENTLEMEN.**—We beg to lay before you a Statement of the Company's business, with a Balance Sheet for the year ending the 31st December, 1906.

The Net Profit of the Company for the twelve months under review, after paying all charges, including the salary of the General Managers, providing for all bad and doubtful debts, and allowing for loss on subsidiary claims, amount to £102,368.03

To which has to be added the balance brought forward from the previous year £7,734.04

£110,102.07

From this there has to be deducted—General Managers' Commission of 5 per cent. on the net profit for the year as per Article 80 of the Company's Articles of Association £5,118.30

Remuneration of the Consulting Committee as per Article 92 £2,500.00

£5,618.30

Leaving available for appropriation £102,483.77

We paid an Interim Dividend of 4 per cent. in November last absorbing £8,360.00

We now propose to pay a further Dividend of 4 per cent. (making 8 per cent. for the year) which will absorb £36,000.00

To write off Building Improvements—Furniture, Fittings, Utensils of Trade, Aerated Water Plant, and Machinery £25,000.00

To carry forward to 1907 Account £5,482.67

£102,483.77

**CONSULTING COMMITTEE.**—The existing Consulting Committee consists of Hon. Sir G. P. Clarke, C.M.G., Hon. Mr. Osborne, and Messrs. H. P. White and J. Scott-Harston.

**AUDITORS.**—The Company's Accounts at the Head Office have been audited by Mr. Francis Muirhead and Mr. W. Hutton-Potts, who offer themselves for re-election.

**JOHN D. THOMPSON & SONS, General Managers.**

## NOTES FROM THE NORTH.

(By P. E. N.)

TIENTSIN, May 8.

Though there does not seem any immediate prospect of trouble, to those who are in a position to profit by past experience and care to read the signs of the times it is clear all the elements of mischief are in being. The thin coating of favourable conditions which safeguard our being is unquestionably wearing thin at the moment, and a trifle may suffice to break through the surface altogether. Just how and when and where the trouble will come the oldest of our quid-nuncs would probably hesitate to prophesy, for the signs of the times are suggestive only of an ubiquitous unrest which prohibits the naming of any locality and negatives any attempt to limit a sphere of activity.

The general conditions are startlingly similar to those of 1900 with the single exception that they are each and all enhanced tenfold. Whatever the causes of unrest were then they have been aggravated tenfold within the last six years. Opinions differed then as to what those causes really were, some blaming the missionaries, some the Germans, some the officials squeezing, some the more presence of foreign enterprise and ambitions; but whether any or all of these things were in truth contributing causes of the unrest and subsequent outbreak, they are all in existence at the present time in stronger and more definite form.

If missionaries are the primary grievance, they are here in greater numbers and doing a more extended work than ever. If it was the Germans, they have enlarged their sphere of influence in Shantung and have built their railway into the heart of the province. If it was the Russians in Manchuria, the Manchurian provinces are lost to China now to an extent that they never were before. If it was foreign enterprise generally, both the Peking Syndicate and several railway lines bear testimony to the development of foreign commercial influence. If it was the oppression of the Chinese officials, never before has taxation been as heavy and demands on the people's resources been as exacting as it is now. So far then as promoting causes of trouble are concerned, the time is just as ripe for trouble as it was in 1900 and more so.

But will there be trouble many ask and why should there be? Personally I think there will be trouble at no distant date and for this reason. In six years the Chinese leopard has not changed its spots and the old repeated argument that China learnt her lesson in 1900 is bunkum. You cannot instill into one person much less a race a hard and unswerving lesson which upsets the doctrines and theories of years, without well preparing the mind ground to receive that lesson. The great bulk of the Chinese people are as ignorant now as they were then, and the enlightened portion of the population may be singled out like dew-drops on a summer rose.

The Emperor Dowager, who with all her astuteness allowed herself to be persuaded that the intruding foreigner could be driven out, has gathered round her now just the same men as she had then, and as before the men who would have been most likely to disabuse the royal mind of such flattering conceits have been either banished from the capital or deprived of power. While nominally the most powerful man in China, Viceroy Yuan who has at least estimated foreign strength, is at the moment powerless to withstand any movement which the Throne might choose to foster or be unable to forbid. He has but two divisions under him and these are either at a distance on duty or are more than suspected of being in sympathy with the fanatics. At the head of the army we have T'ieh Liang and a conservative foreign-hating commander-in-chief. Na Tung and other old favourites of seven years ago are still around the Throne.

Two elements we have in addition which were wanting before, the overthrow of a Western army by an Oriental one which has taken place, and the stimulating influence of the Oriental victors. Whatever the Japanese Government may or may not recognise and countenance there can be no doubt that unofficially Japanese influence is hard at work under the rose stirring up strife for individual ends, and if trouble occurs there is every reason to suppose that Japan will play an important part in suppressing it and pay herself in her own way for her trouble.

Among the more direct suggestions of coming events are the secret signs being passed round the city in the form of blood-stained doorways, the signs being more potent but nevertheless real and I have seen many. Later perhaps these marks will take the form of finger-tip form of before, though it is quite likely that they will avoid following too closely in the old lines. Then there is the fact that the theatrical performances are again adapting themselves to revive Boxer movements, and more than once passers through the native City have caught Chinese making rude and offensive signs to foreigners.

In Peking rumour has taken the form of stories inspired by the apparently harmless incident of the newly made roadways in the capital having been improved by the planting of trees. The presumably accidental alteration of soil, willow and peach have prompted idle tales of coming evil in the following strain—

Ma lu shang tsai kwei,  
馬路上栽槐  
Yi ho ch'uan lai lai,  
義和拳還來  
Yi tao yi liu,  
一條一柳  
Hui lei tai tsou,  
迴得逃走

馬路上栽槐  
Yi ho ch'uan lai lai,  
義和拳還來  
Yi tao yi liu,  
一條一柳  
Hui lei tai tsou,  
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一條一柳  
Hui lei tai tsou,  
迴得逃走

## TRANSLATION.

By the public road there planted the ash tree,  
The Yih Boxers will come again (in some day).  
One peach and one willow (placed at intervals).  
Again (the Court and people) have to flee away.

Taken by itself the above may seem a small thing but when it is coupled with the enormous influx of arms which is now taking place and the fact that arms of all descriptions are being freely sold to the Chinese from a number of shops in the Japanese and other concessions as well as the native City, and that field guns and land mines have been handing for some time, one may be pardoned for asking, what means this and what is it all for?

Things have been unsettled and threatening for the past two years and nothing has happened, it is true, but a pot cannot for ever simmer without coming to the boil and just as the Boxer outbreak simmered for two years before the actual outbreak, so for the past two years the hatred and lust for revenge of officials who know that the day is coming when the stabiles will be finally swept by foreign influence is fast coming to the boil.

## CANTON.

(From Our Correspondent.)

CANTON, May 17.

Reports have reached Canton from several sections that a considerable number of deaths have occurred from cholera especially in the Sz Yip (Four Districts) section. Several foreigners in Canton have recently been ill with what has seemed to be sporadic cholera. I have not heard of any deaths here from the disease. It is hoped that the recent heavy rains will prevent an outbreak of the dreadful scourge. Both the West and North rivers are now in flood. It behoves all to be careful how they partake of raw vegetables and fruits.

## U. S. COURT.

Judge Willey, well known for the work that he has done in Shanghai, is expected to arrive in Canton next Wednesday, the 22nd inst. He will open court here in the American Consulate General Saturday, the 26th inst. He is travelling from on Shanghai by P. M. S. "Korea," due in Hongkong the 21st inst.

## PROPOSED NEW RAILWAY.

Recently Chau Ying Hon memorialized the Viceroy with a view to securing a concession for a railway line from Fatsan to K'om Chuk. The answer of the Viceroy seems non-committal. He asks whether such a railway is necessary; whether there is any probability that such a line will interfere with the great central line to Hankow; and whether there is any evidence that such a line will pay. He has referred the matter to Ng Shi Long, who is to examine into the situation and then report to His Excellency. He has also ordered other minor officials, who are supposed to be interested in the making of railways, to examine those who are likely to be in possession of information that would assist in determining the question. Indeed, he has gone so far as to ask that rough plans be drawn of the proposed railway, that he may know exactly the proposed route. One thing is evident, the experience of the one line from Canton to Fatsan has whetted the desire for another of the same kind, and the success that has followed the opening of this one branch has suggested the probability that other branches would also be equally good speculations.

## FLOODS AT FATSAN.

The heavy rains of the past fortnight have filled the beds of the North and the West rivers, and flooded the delta of the Canton river. Each spring, of course, the lower parts of Fatsan are flooded, and this year has been no exception to the rule. Much of the city has been engulfed to the depth of three or four feet. Fortunately the rains did not continue long, and were immediately followed by some fine days so that the waters soon began to subside.

## THE CHINA MAIL.

Everyone knows that the Imperial Government issued ten regulations dealing with the consumption of opium, the purpose of which is to uproot the habit from among the people. The Viceroy has handed these regulations over to the Provincial Judge and others for their consideration, and they may report on the feasibility of putting them into force. The general impression among the Canton officials seems to be that the regulations are good enough, but the present is a somewhat difficult time to put them into operation. If immediate and drastic action were taken, there would be an uproar among the people. He, therefore, seems to advise caution and slow action. Time is asked for that the matter may be looked into, and all the circumstances of the case thoroughly considered. What this is likely to lead to, those who know the ways of the Chinese officials can pretty well guess. The reason for time and care is natural enough, but such a reason from the lips of Chinese officials in the past generally means that the matter will be postponed indefinitely.

Arrangements are being made by the Victorian Government for the starting of a regular service of fast steamers between Victoria and the Straits Settlements, says the *Oriental Mail*. The vessels will call at Australia and Java ports, and starting from Melbourne, will make their destination either Singapore or Penang. The boats will be fitted up with refrigerating machinery for carrying fruit and perishable produce, and it is believed there will be a good market for Australian goods on the new route. It is understood that a monthly service of steamers will start running at the end of the present half year, and it is even possible that the line may be inaugurated on May 1.

## GET IT TO DAY.

CHAMBERLAIN'S CHIE. Cholera and Diarrhoea. Remedy cures diarrhoea and dysentery in all its stages. It never fails. For sale by all chemists and druggists.

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## SPORTING.

## Civil Service Sports.

The Civil Service U.C. Sports commenced at 3 p.m. on Whit Monday. Mrs. Chatham will present the prizes—Machado's String Band will play selections during the afternoon.

## COST OF BUILDINGS.

## Report by Mr H. Humphreys.

Attached to the report of the Sanitary Commission is an informative document supplied by Mr H. Humphreys, on the Cost of Buildings in the Colony. Mr Humphreys says:—  
The cost of building houses of any kind at the present time is from two to two and half times more than in 1891. This is borne out by my own experience (which extends to more than a hundred European and about the same number of native dwellings) and is confirmed by that of two of the leading architects of the Colony.

The following is a comparative statement of the cost of the labour and principal materials which enter into the construction of buildings (either European or Chinese):—

	1891.	1907.
Unskilled labour per day earth—coolies cutting	16 cts.	28 cts.
Unskilled labour per day carrying coolies	20 "	40 "
Skilled labour—bricklayers and masons	38 "	69 "
Skilled labour—carpenters	40 "	65 "
Red Bricks per ten thousand	\$800	\$950
China fir poles, each 55 cts.	55 cts.	85 cts.
Lime per 24 baskets	\$1.00	\$2.00
Roof tiles, per thousand	\$4.00	\$5.00
Common per cubic foot	6.00	4.50
Common hardwood, per cubic foot	.65	1.90
Yuccal per cubic foot	.90	1.25
Teak per cubic foot	1.00	1.65

Material from the land such as bricks, tiles, hinges, iron work, glazed tiles, etc. About ten per cent. increase in starting prices to which has to be added about another 30% for the difference in exchange, say 40% increase.

It will thus be seen that only in a few instances would the present cost of labour or materials be double the price ruling in 1891. In several the increase is less than fifty per cent., while in the case of cement there is actually a decrease. I attach a comparative statement of the estimated cost and bill of quantities for building a typical three storied Chinese House (without balcony) in 1891 and under the existing Ordinances which I have marked "A." From this it will be clearly seen that the prices which have to be paid to the Contractor for the work done are in excess of those ruling in 1891, and the cost of the building is increased by about 40%.

It is not to be wondered at that the Contractor, who is in a position to see the cost of the building is increased by about 40%, should be inclined to demand a corresponding increase in the price of the building. The Contractor, who is in a position to see the cost of the building is increased by about 40%, should be inclined to demand a corresponding increase in the price of the building.

The Public Health and Buildings Ordinances of 1901 and 1903 have been unquestionably responsible for a very real and permanent increase in the cost of buildings, as the statement attached hereto marked "B" amply demonstrates. The figures are taken from the estimates before referred to, and are not intended to be taken as a guide to the cost of building a house of a similar type in 1891. In many cases the requirements of the New Ordinances appear to add unnecessarily to the cost. For instance the present Ordinance provides for Kitchen Walls to be cemented to a height of 4 feet; 18 inches would be ample. The thickness of walls, and especially of party walls, as laid down in the Ordinance, is excessive and could be reduced with great safety. In view of the inferiority of the lime used in the construction of buildings, it would be well to encourage building in cement and to amend the Ordinances so as to differentiate between thicknesses of walls in cement mortar and lime mortar. There is, however, one instance in which the cost of Chinese buildings could be increased with advantage to the Public safety and the ultimate gain of the landlord, that is, it should be compulsory for the terminal walls of blocks of Chinese houses to be built in cement, these being the parts of the walls which are most exposed and bear the heaviest strains in cases of flood, typhoon or fire. The frequent collapses and loss of life which have resulted therefrom, would, in all probability, in almost every instance have been prevented if such walls had been built with cement mortar instead of lime mortar.

In the foregoing illustrations I have dealt almost exclusively with the ordinary type of Chinese houses because the large increase in the cost of erection of such can more readily be accounted for than in the case of houses of European design. The existing Ordinances do not increase the cost of the latter in the same ratio as the former, and it is therefore somewhat difficult to explain why the cost of building European houses should have gone up in the same proportion as Chinese and be still apparently unremunerative to the building Contractor.

The Min. whistling buoy (Fookshoo district) will shortly be withdrawn for repairs and a six foot conical buoy, painted in a manner similar and bearing the word "Min," but having no whistle, will temporarily replace it.

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## THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

## The New Scheme.

Concerning a change in the Sanitary Board and its work the Commissioners who investigated the existing system of working make recommendations as follow:—

We would











